

meadow. *Sanitary influence*, (1) the claimed influence of greater purity of air does not seem to be significant, (2) protection against sun and wind and consequent absence of extreme conditions seem favorable, (3) the soil conditions of the forest are unfavorable to the production and existence of pathogenic microbes.

THE REPORT of the U. S. Microscopist for 1892 is devoted principally to edible and poisonous mushrooms. There are two other pamphlets sent out with it, being reprints of such parts of the reports for 1885 and 1890 as relate to edible fungi. They contain some very good colored plates and some serviceable information, although as contributions to science they do not rank high, and the accuracy of the statements is not always above criticism.

OPEN LETTERS.

A suggestion in terminology.

The members of the Madison Botanical Congress through their committees on the terminology of morphology and of physiology expressed a desire for some general term that should be applied to the cell which arises from the fusion of two gametes. The word *zygote* has come to refer only to the product of fusing isogametes, just as *oospore* (in the etymologically correct use) refers to the fusion product of heterogametes. For the general term, after much research and deliberation, the compound *syngamete* is offered. The derivation is apparent, and by preserving the word *gamete* as an integral part of the term, there is little difficulty in respect to comprehensibility. Some such word seems better than one in which the idea of fusion alone should be expressed, for such a word would find proper use in the morphology and physiology of Mycetozoa. But in these it is very doubtful indeed whether the fusing *plasmodiogens* are gametic in their nature. The term is herewith offered for criticism.—CONWAY MAC MILLAN, *University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.*

Introduced plants in the arid region.

I forward the inclosed list to show that though we dwell in the arid region we can show a very fair assortment of introduced plants and shrubs.

The list is made out from what grows on my two lots 100 by 300 feet in our village. The lots are bisected by a small river, the Vasquez Fork of the Platte, and is blessed with abundant moisture in part.

We are in latitude $39^{\circ} 45' 24''$ north with an altitude of 5,660 feet above the sea. Our yearly rain-fall and melted snow varies from thirteen and one-half to eighteen inches.

Stachys and *Deutzia* are from Japan, and present no trouble in naturalization, if I permit them to extend.